



# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>



**WINTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 3 & 4  
TEACHER GUIDE**

# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>



**WINTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 3&4  
TEACHER GUIDE**



**YOUR ACTIVATION CODE IS NOW LOCATED INSIDE THE TEACHER PACK!**

*Group*

## Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



### Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

### Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

### Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

### Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

## Group

[group.com/sunday-school](http://group.com/sunday-school)

### We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

### Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

### FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 3 & 4, Winter

Copyright © 2000 and 2015 Group Publishing, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit [group.com/permissions](http://group.com/permissions).



When you see the OK TO COPY icon, this means permission to photocopy the page from FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum for Grades 3 & 4, Winter, is granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. [group.com](http://group.com)

### Credits

Contributing Authors: Michelle R. Hicks, Mikal Keefer, Jan Kershner, Julie Meiklejohn, Janet R. Reeves, Donna Simcoe

Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Owen Shattuck, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photography: © iStockphoto.com/Rich Vintage Photography

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com)

ISBN 978-1-4707-6626-9

Printed in the United States of America.



# Contents

**Introduction** .....4

## **The Lessons**

**Lesson 1: Prophets Foretell Jesus’ Coming**—Jeremiah 33:14-16 .....5

**Lesson 2: Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus**—Luke 1:68-79 .....15

**Lesson 3: John Prepares People for Jesus’ Coming**—Luke 3:7-18 .....27

**\*Lesson 4: The Son of God Is Born!**—Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20 .....37

**Lesson 5: Jesus Grows Up**—Luke 2:39-52 .....49

**Lesson 6: The Word Became Flesh**—John 1:1-18 .....59

**Lesson 7: Satan Tempts Jesus**—Luke 4:1-13 .....71

**Lesson 8: Jesus Performs His First Miracle**—John 2:1-11 .....83

**Lesson 9: Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue**—Luke 4:14-21 .....93

**Lesson 10: Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown**—Luke 4:22-30 .....103

**Lesson 11: Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus**—Luke 9:28-36 .....113

**Lesson 12: Jesus Teaches About Rewards**—Luke 6:17-26 .....125

**Lesson 13: Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies**—Luke 6:27-38 .....135

\*We recommend rearranging the lessons so that Lesson 4 aligns with the week of Christmas.



# The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



No doubt about it, the world is changing. Families used to go to church every week. Kids used to have longer attention spans. Teachers used to have more time to prepare. And didn't our budgets used to be bigger?

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date. But there's one thing that's never changed: the need to grow families closer to Jesus.

That's why we created FaithWeaver NOW®, and it's different from anything you've ever seen before!

## **It combines Sunday school with family ministry.** ■■■■

Sure, you've seen Sunday school aimed at families. But FaithWeaver NOW actually hits the target by having everyone in the family learning about the same Scripture each week.

## **It's simpler and easier.** ■■■■

Sometimes change is a wonderful thing. Gone are the days when you needed to spend hours preparing your lessons and hunting for supplies. FaithWeaver NOW will have you and your team ready to go in a snap.

## **It's made for NOW.** ■■■■

Life is complicated and full of distractions. FaithWeaver NOW keeps faith on track through even the most frenzied lifestyles.

## **What makes FaithWeaver NOW the perfect curriculum for TODAY's church?**

- Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.
- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
- Kids see God in their everyday world.
- The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.
- You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.



Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

*Thom Schultz Joani Schultz*

Thom and Joani Schultz  
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer  
Group Publishing, Inc.



# Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Trust is important to third- and fourth-graders. Therefore, it's important for kids to know that when someone makes a promise to them, they can trust that the promise will be fulfilled. Kids this age have had enough life experience to know that some promises can be trusted better than others. Use this lesson to help kids see that God fulfilled his promise through Jesus and that they can always trust God.



### ► Bible Point

Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

### Key Verse

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us' " (Matthew 1:22-23).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will commit to keeping their promises, just as God kept his promise through Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>I Promise</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a fun game about making promises.	a supply of uninflated balloons	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>God Speaks to Jeremiah</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover the meaning of Jeremiah's amazing prophecy.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, markers, pens, scissors (several pairs)	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>The Promise Fulfilled</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Explore the Key Verse to find out that Jesus fulfilled God's promise to send a Messiah, and that he promised to be with them.	Bibles	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Keeping Promises</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Determine how keeping and not keeping promises affects them, and make promise cards to give to someone.	Bibles, construction paper, markers	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth, promise cards made in the "Keeping Promises" activity	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*







## I Promise Supplies

a supply of uninflated balloons

### **BALLOON WARNING**

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## I Promise

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids stand on one side of the room, and have them form two groups.

Say: **We're going to start today by playing a game about promises.** Put the balloons in the middle of a table, and have groups stand on opposite sides of the table.

Say: **Each group will be given five minutes to blow up as many balloons as it can. But each group has to tell the other group ahead of time how many balloons it promises to blow up in five minutes. And the balloons have to be fully blown up; you can't just blow them up partway! The group that comes closest to fulfilling its promise will be able to spend five minutes telling the other group what to do. If you fail to keep your promise, you'll have to follow the directions of the winning group for five minutes. Go ahead and talk with the rest of your group, and decide how many balloons you think your group can blow up. You want to blow up more balloons than the other group!**

Give kids a few moments to make their predictions. Then say: **Okay! Are groups ready? Blow up your balloons!** Have the groups try to blow up the number of balloons they've promised to blow up.

After five minutes, have kids stop and count the balloons.

Allow a minute for the group of kids who won to decide the kinds of things they're going to make the other kids do. Make sure they're within reason. For example, it's fine if they have the other kids do jumping jacks or make silly faces, but it's not okay for them to ask the other group to lick the floor of your meeting room.

Supervise as the winning team bosses the losing team around. Then gather kids together.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell what it was like to make a promise you weren't sure you could fulfill.
- How does that compare to making real promises?
- Explain whether it's important to you to fulfill promises.
- What's it like for you when someone doesn't keep his or her promise to you?





Say: **When people don't fulfill their promises to us, it makes it hard for us to trust those people. But God made a very special promise to us, which he was very faithful to fulfill. Today we'll learn what that promise was and discover that**  
▶ **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE.**



**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## God Speaks to Jeremiah

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jeremiah was a prophet, which meant he received messages that God gave him and passed them on to God's people. One day God gave Jeremiah an important message about something special that was going to happen. Jeremiah told God's message to the people of Israel. Let's find out what Jeremiah said.**

Make sure kids have Bibles, and ask them to turn to Jeremiah 33:14-16. Ask for a willing preteen to read the verses aloud.

Say: **The message, or prophecy, referred to the promise God made to Jerusalem that he would send a Messiah. The one thing the promise didn't include was a timeline. God's people had to wait for an unknown length of time. And it took more than 500 years before the promise was fulfilled. Let's get a better idea of what 500 years looks like.**

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, pens, markers, and scissors, and have kids turn to the "What Does the Future Hold?" activity. Ask kids to draw on the left side what they imagine this spot looked like 500 years ago. For reference, remind them that Christopher Columbus landed in America in 1492, and Jamestown, Virginia, was settled in 1607. Then have them draw on the right side what they imagine it'll look like 500 years from now. In the middle of the page is a square; have them cut out three sides to create a flap they can open to look through their page and see what this place looks like today.

Say: **It's hard for us to remember details of things we know happened 500 years ago, much less predict what will happen 500 years from now. But it wasn't hard for Jeremiah, because God told him what was going to happen in the future. Jeremiah told people that the Messiah, Jesus, was coming. And more than 500 years later,**  
▶ **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE.**

Have kids form groups of two or three. Say: **In your group, try to think of a promise you could make that might still be worthwhile in 500 years.** Allow a few minutes, and then have kids share their ideas with the whole group. Have kids vote on whether they think each idea will work.

### God Speaks to Jeremiah Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Truth Sleuth markers
- pens
- scissors (several pairs)

### God Speaks to Jeremiah Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





### The Promise Fulfilled Supplies

Bibles

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's the main difference you notice between the promises you tried to make and the promise God kept?
- In what ways does this promise help you trust God more in your own life?
- In what ways can you show God you trust him?

Say: ► **JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE.** God is so much greater than we are, and his promises show that. Seeing and understanding how God keeps his promises can help us trust him with things we don't understand in our lives. Let's take a look at our Key Verse to find out more.

## The Promise Fulfilled

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is Matthew 1:22-23.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read it aloud: "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us.'"

Say: **God promised to send a Messiah to save us, and ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE when he came to earth. Our Bible passage tells us what God promised, and our Key Verse tells what happened more than 500 years later. The best part is that God also included a promise even as he was fulfilling the first promise. He promised to be with us.**

Have kids close their eyes. Say: **Without opening your eyes, line up in order by height. You can talk, but you can't open your eyes.** Allow kids a few minutes to try lining up according to their height.

Before kids finish lining up correctly, say: **That seemed pretty difficult. Let's find a way to make this easier.** Choose two kids to open their eyes and help the other kids get lined up in the right order. Have these kids promise the rest of the group that they'll help them and accomplish this task together. These kids can direct the other kids based on what they see. Allow time for them to finish lining the group up.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What difference did it make to have someone who could see help you line up correctly?





- Explain one way having God in your life is like having people who could see in our game.
- In what way was trusting the people who could see like trusting God's promises?

Say: **God loves you. He loves everyone. That's why God sent Jesus—because he loves us. God knew that it was only through Jesus that he could be with us. When God makes promises, he'll do incredible things to fulfill those promises. ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE.**



### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Keeping Promises

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's take a look at our Key Verse, Matthew 1:22-23, again.** Have kids again turn in their Bibles to Matthew 1:22-23, and read the verse aloud while the kids follow along: **“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’— which means, ‘God with us’ ” (Matthew 1:22-23).**

Say: **Let's reflect on the things we've learned about making and keeping promises. Form circles with no more than six kids per circle.** Allow time.

**Think about a time you made a promise to someone and kept it.** Pause. Invite willing kids to share their reflections on keeping that promise. When anyone who wants to share has done so, have kids all take a step toward the center of their circles.

Say: **Think about a time someone made a promise to you and kept that promise.** Pause. Invite willing kids to share their reflections on others keeping their promises. When anyone who wants to share has done so, have kids all take another step toward the center of their circles.

Say: **When we're all honest and keep our promises to one another, we feel closer to our friends and family. We know we can trust them to do what they say and not disappoint us, and they know the same about us. That's how God wants us to trust him. God wants us to read the Bible and see all the ways he's kept his promises to us. ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE. Let's make promise cards today.**

Give kids each a sheet of construction paper, and have them fold the paper in half to make a card. Have markers available for kids to use.

### Keeping Promises Supplies

Bibles  
construction paper  
markers





Say: **God promised to be with you. Think of a promise you can make to someone that will help that person see God is with him or her. This promise could be for a family member, or it could be for a friend. After you've thought of someone, write "Dear" and the person's name on the inside of your card. Then write your promise to that person.**

For example, you could promise your mom that you will help her with the dishes every night next week. Or you could promise your friend that you will ask your parents if he or she can spend the night with you next weekend. It could be any meaningful promise you want to make and keep.

Give kids time to write their cards, and then have them decorate the fronts of the cards.

Say: **Take these cards with you, and pray about how you want to give them to the people you wrote them to. Then take the action steps needed to make these promises turn into reality.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's it like to know you've made a promise and that someone is waiting for you to follow through?**
- **What difference does it make whether you keep the promises you make?**
- **What difference does it make to you to know that God has always kept every promise he's made?**

Say: **God keeps promises better than anyone else ever has or ever will. We can trust God completely. He never lies, and he's always with us. Whether anyone else keeps the promises they make to you, you can remember how ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE. God loves you, he made you, and he'll always keep the promises he makes.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's consider this week that ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE as we do our Daily Challenges.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

- **Get some paper and writing supplies. Pray about the way you honor your promises. As you pray, creatively express your promise-keeping through creative writing. When you're done, pray and ask God to help you keep your promises.**
- **Draw small pictures to depict the different ways God has kept promises to you or other people you know. Combine those drawings into a collage so you can stand back and admire the promises God's kept. Hang your collage in a prominent place in your room, and remember to thank God for keeping his promises when you see it.**
- **Put your promise card in a place you won't forget it. When you get home, talk to someone in your family about it. Give your card to the person you wrote it to, and ask God to help you as you follow through on this promise.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **God promised that Jesus would come to save everyone, and ► JESUS FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE. Let's trust God's promises and be trustworthy in our promises by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their kids. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's promises. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Ask kids to bring their promise cards to a quiet area in the room. Encourage kids to pray about the promises they wrote down. Then close by praying: **Dear God, thank you that we can trust you to always keep your promises. Thank you for sending Jesus to keep the greatest promise of all. Help us keep our promises, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
Bible Truth Sleuth promise cards made in the "Keeping Promises" activity

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....  
Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

FaithWeaver NOW is for today's Sunday school teachers. It's developed by real Sunday school teachers, examined by real ministry leaders, and tested and approved by thousands of churches so you get great lessons that work with today's families.

*This quarter you'll explore these Bible passages:*

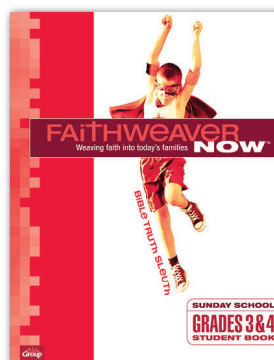
	BIBLE CONTENT/SCRIPTURE	KEY VERSE	BIBLE POINT
WEEK 1	Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming (Jeremiah 33:14-16)	"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:22-23).	Jesus fulfilled God's promise.
WEEK 2	Zechariah Prophesies About Jesus (Luke 1:68-79)	"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).	The world needs Jesus.
WEEK 3	John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming (Luke 3:7-18)	"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).	Repenting prepares us for Jesus.
WEEK 4	The Son of God Is Born! (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20)	"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).	Celebrate Jesus' birth.
WEEK 5	Jesus Grows Up (Luke 2:39-52)	"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).	Jesus is special.
WEEK 6	The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-18)	"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).	We can be God's children.
WEEK 7	Satan Tempts Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)	"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).	Jesus helps us resist temptation.
WEEK 8	Jesus Performs His First Miracle (John 2:1-11)	"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).	Jesus can do miracles.
WEEK 9	Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue (Luke 4:14-21)	"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).	Jesus came for all people.
WEEK 10	Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown (Luke 4:22-30)	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).	Believe in Jesus.
WEEK 11	Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus (Luke 9:28-36)	"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).	Jesus is God's Son.
WEEK 12	Jesus Teaches About Rewards (Luke 6:17-26)	"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).	Jesus blesses people who have faith.
WEEK 13	Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies (Luke 6:27-38)	"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).	Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.

### PLUS...

Access all these **FREE FaithWeaver NOW digital resources** at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital):

- **FREE digital copies of Teacher Guides** in PDF format so you can easily download any lesson for your ministry. Sharing lessons with busy volunteers couldn't be easier! *See inside kit for activation code.*
- **A FREE downloadable Director Manual** to help you structure your program for maximum effectiveness.
- **FREE weekly FamilyConnect pages** you can print out or email to parents to help families grow together in faith throughout the week.

### Don't forget...



**\*Get a colorful, age-appropriate student book for every child! Each week, you'll get...**

- Engaging activities that bring the Bible to life for every child
- Easy faith conversation-starters for kids to take home
- Meaningful at-home activities for families to dig into Scripture

**\*You'll need one per child. Sold separately.**



**THIS IS A SAMPLE**  
**The number of pages is limited.**

Purchase the item for the complete version.

